

Application No. 10/602,171 - - - - 4

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (canceled).

Claim 2 (currently amended): The cytology brush in accordance with claim 8, ~~claim 1~~; wherein the bristle shank has an atraumatic tip.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The cytology brush in accordance with claim 8, ~~claim 1~~; wherein the bristles are nylon bristles.

Claims 4-7 (canceled).

Claim 8 (currently amended): A cytology brush, sized for entry into a mammary duct of a human patient and comprising:

a bristle shank;

a bristle structure on the shank and having bristles of sufficient stiffness to loosen cytology material lining the mammary duct without substantial traumatization of mammary duct tissue;

a brush handle; and

a coupling for releasably attaching the bristle shank to the brush handle The cytology brush in accordance with ~~claim 1~~; wherein the coupling is a corkscrew in the handle and releasably engages the bristle shank.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The cytology brush in accordance with claim 8, ~~claim 1~~; further including an elongated housing for the brush handle and a biopsy site marker releasably carried by the cytology brush in the elongated housing.

Claim 10 (original): The cytology brush of claim 9, wherein the biopsy site marker is an outwardly biased coil releasably mounted to the bristle shank.

Claim 11 (currently amended): The cytology brush of claim 8, ~~claim 1~~; further including a detent for limiting axial travel of the brush handle within the elongated housing.

Application No. 10/602,171 - - - - 5

Claim 12 (original): The cytology brush of claim 11, wherein the detent is removably secured to the brush handle.

Claim 13 (original): The cytology brush of claim 11, wherein the brush handle is slidably mounted in the elongated housing and the detent is integral with the elongated housing.

Claim 14 (original): The cytology brush of claim 11, wherein the brush handle is slidably mounted in the elongated housing and the detent is mounted to the elongated housing in a hinged relationship therewith.

Claims 15-24 (canceled).

Claim 25 (currently amended): A cytology brush, sized for entry into a mammary duct of a human patient and comprising:

a bristle shank;

a bristle structure on the shank with bristles of stiffness sufficient to loosen cytological material lining the mammary duct without substantial traumatization of mammary duct tissue;

a detachable brush handle for the bristle shank; and

a dispensable, opaque marker carried by the cytology brush;

further provided with a detent operably associated with the bristle shank for preventing inadvertent release of the detachable brush handle,

wherein the brush handle is slidably received within a housing and the detent is situated on the housing for operable engagement with the brush handle, and

~~The cytology brush in accordance with claim 24~~ wherein the detent is a pivotable arm on the housing.

Claim 26 (currently amended): The cytology brush in accordance with claim 25 ~~claim 24~~ wherein the marker is a titanium coil carried on the bristle shank.

Claim 27 (currently amended): The cytology brush in accordance with claim 25 ~~claim 24~~ wherein the housing is a tubular housing.